

House Resolution No. 1376

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives hold in high esteem those Show-Me State residents who admirably answered the patriotic call to national service during times of worldwide turmoil through their enlistment in the United States military; and

Whereas, Joe Dobbelare of Perryville served in the United States Army during World War II as a member of a tank unit which was assigned to the Fourth Army, 24th Division in the Philippines; and

Whereas, after earning a Bronze Star in 1945 for his experiences during combat, Joe Dobbelare actually received his boxed medal and ribbon during February 2004 after he had read articles published by the American Legion, VFW, and the Republic Monitor newspaper and then submitted his military discharge papers for review; and

Whereas, the delay in receiving his Bronze Star is attributed by Joe Dobbelare to the destruction of his original military records during a fire at the military repository in Saint Louis where they had been sent for storage after his honorable discharge; and

Whereas, in addition to his Bronze Star, Joe Dobbelare also has received the Army's Missouri Medal, the Good Conduct award, a Combat Infantry award, and a citation and service ribbon from the Philippines government; and

Whereas, Joe Dobbelare for many years enjoyed the love and affection of Opal Counts, now deceased, in a long, productive marriage which was blessed with a devoted son, Timothy; a loving daughter-in-law, Tammy; and two wonderful grandchildren, Kyle and Kelsey; and

Whereas, at age eighty Joe Dobbelare still works at Gilster Mary Lee's cake plant in Perryville, a vocational endeavor which he has pursued for the past twenty-seven years in a life which has known plenty of hard work and difficult times:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to salute World War II veteran Joe Dobbelare and to convey to him this legislative body's heartiest congratulations for belated receiving his well-deserved Bronze Star medal approximately sixty years after earning it during tank squad activities in the Philippines with the Fourth Army's 24th Division; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of Joe Dobbelare of Perryville, Missouri.

Offered by _____
Representative Scott A. Lipke
District No. 157

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 1376, adopted March 31, 2004.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker